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Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—" This question has not been fully answered. May I know on what terms the grounds were let to the Madras Race Club ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" A rental of Rs. 8,000 per annum is charged and it is credited to the Government."

Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO :—" With whose permission ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" With the permission of the Government, I think."

Jails.

Representation of the Discharged Prisoners' Societies on the Boards of Visitors to Jails.

* 127 Q.—Sriman SASIRHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state whether any orders have been passed for the representation of the Discharged Prisoners' Societies on the Boards of Visitors to the various jails; and if not, whether the Government propose to pass such orders?

A.—Yes; the Government have instructed the Commissioner of Police and the District Magistrates to see that preference is given to persons connected with the Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society in the selection of non-official visitors to the Board.

Use of pillows for prisoners in Cuddalore, etc.

* 128 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

- (a) whether prisoners in the jails at Cuddalore and Trichinopoly are allowed the use of pillows; and
- (b) if not, why not?

A.—(a) & (b) Pillows are not supplied to Indian prisoners except to those who are sick in the jail hospital. Rule 379 (1) of the Jail Manual, however, requires that the Indian prisoners in jails, where no pials with a head-rest exist, should be supplied with coir or aloe mats 8 feet in length and 2½ feet in breadth, so that one end may be rolled up to form a pillow. The Superintendents of Trichinopoly and Cuddalore Jails have been instructed to comply strictly with the requirements of the above rule.

Labour.

Labour in Shoranur-Nilambur Railway.

* 129 Q.—Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

- (a) what is the rate fixed in the estimates for unskilled labour of men, women and children in the working of the Shoranur-Nilambur Railway and whether the contractors are allowed to give any wages as they choose; and

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(b) whether there are any rules to govern the conduct of the railway contractors in their relation to the labourers and whether Government can exercise any control over them either through the Commissioner of Labour or otherwise?

A.—(a) The Government have no information regarding the rates fixed for unskilled labour. So far as they are aware, there is nothing to prevent contractors regulating the wages in accordance with the state of the labour market.

(b) The answer is in the negative.

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—“ May I know whether the Government are aware, through memorials received from the coolies or otherwise, that the contractors are paying to the coolies only wages below the normal rate and that even that is not regularly disbursed ? ”

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“ The Government have no information.”

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—“ Am I to understand that there is no remedy open to these coolies other than that of strikes or by direct action to get their grievances redressed ? ”

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“ If a representation is made to me I will go into the question.”

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—“ Is it not part of the duty of Labour Officer to enquire into these things and get their grievances redressed ? ”

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“ Yes, but how is the Labour Officer to know their grievances.”

Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATAREDDI NAYUDU :—“ Have the Government taken powers to dictate terms to the employers of labour as to how much they are to pay to their labourers ? ”

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—“ No.”

Bench Courts.

The first-class Bench at Mangalore.

* 130 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) what is the strength of the first-class Bench at Mangalore ;

(b) what are the qualifications of the President of the Bench at Mangalore and what were the qualifications of his predecessor ;

(c) what are the precedents and antecedents of the other members of the Bench ;

(d) how many cases were transferred from the Bench Court to the other courts during the year ending 31st May 1925 and under what classes of offences and by which magistrate ;

(e) how many cases under the Motor Vehicles Act were tried by the Bench during the year ending 31st May 1925 and what was the number of convictions ; and

(f) whether there has been an order made by the District Magistrate to the effect that no cases under the Motor Vehicles Act should be sent to the Bench and on what grounds ?